



Marcia Mayeda
Director

County of Los Angeles
Department of Animal Care and Control
Administrative Office
5898 Cherry Avenue
Long Beach, California 90805
(562) 728-4610 • Fax (562) 422-3408
<http://animalcare.lacounty.gov>



July 12, 2016

**Animal Care Center
(ACC) Locations**

Agoura ACC
29525 Agoura Rd.
Agoura, CA 91301
(818) 991-0071

Baldwin Park ACC
4275 N. Elton St.
Baldwin Park, CA 91706
(626) 962-3577

Carson/Gardena ACC
216 W. Victoria St.
Gardena, CA 90248
(310) 523-9566

Castaic ACC
31044 N. Charlie Cyn.
Road
Castaic, CA 91384
(661) 257-3191

Downey ACC
11258 S. Garfield Ave.
Downey, CA 90242
(562) 940-6898

Lancaster ACC
5210 W. Avenue I
Lancaster, CA 93536
(661) 940-4191

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
Room 383, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ACCEPTANCE OF A GRANT OF \$100,000
FROM THE ANNENBERG FOUNDATION
TO SUPPORT THE ANIMAL BEHAVIOR PROGRAM AND
APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(4-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval of the appropriation adjustment and accept a donation of \$100,000 from the Annenberg Foundation to support the Department of Animal Care and Control's (Department) efforts to rehabilitate more animals through animal behavior modification and training.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Accept the donation of \$100,000 from the Annenberg Foundation to support the Department's Animal Behavior Program and approve the enclosed appropriation adjustment to fund the program's services and supplies.
2. Instruct your Board to prepare and send a letter of appreciation to the Annenberg Foundation for their generous donation.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION

Animal behavior is an area of increasing focus for the Department's mission of reducing animal euthanasia. Animal behavior is a critical aspect of animal sheltering, as behaviorally challenged animals find difficulty remaining in or finding new homes. As the public realizes the importance of visiting animal shelters to find their newest family members, they should be presented with well-behaved and temperamentally sound animals for selection. Failure to provide such animals for adoption leads to negative perceptions of animal care centers and drives potential adopters to other sources for acquiring a new pet. Effective animal behavior programs are as essential as effective medical programs in saving animal lives.

The grants will be used to retain professional animal behaviorists to train Department staff regarding animal behavior; purchase training supplies such as agility equipment, training supplies, and treats; marketing and incentive items to increase adoptions and encourage pet owners to modify their pets' behavior; and a transport van to provide training to pet owners in community settings.

The Department is establishing a formal animal behavior program, the full description of which is shown as Enclosure II.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The acceptance of the donation will support the strategic plan goal of operational effectiveness and fiscal sustainability (Goal 1) by maximizing the effectiveness of animal care operations through an enhanced animal behavioral modification and enrichment program. More adoptable animals will support fiscal sustainability by increasing adoption revenue. Accepting this grant supports fiscal sustainability by utilizing philanthropic revenue instead of general fund revenue to enhance Department operations.

FISCAL IMPACT

Your Board's approval of the appropriation adjustment in the amount of \$100,000 will provide the Department with additional financial resources for the services and supplies funding. The Department will contribute \$3,000 to the cost of the vehicle wrap to promote the offsite training activities and will be absorbed into the Fiscal Year 2016-17 Budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS / LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government Code Section 25355 permits the County to accept donations or other gifts for a specific County purpose. Section 2.4.2 of the County Fiscal Manual authorizes County departments to accept donations in excess of \$10,000 with Board approval.


IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES

The establishment of a behavioral modification and enrichment program at Department animal care centers will result in reduced animal surrender, more successful placement of animals into their new homes, reduced animal behavioral problems in the animal care centers, and a reduction in euthanasia for behavioral reasons. Much as the medical program is a key factor in the successful management and placement of animals, the behavioral program will also provide a structured framework in which animals may receive the necessary behavioral modifications and environmental enrichment programs to ensure their successful placement into permanent, loving homes.

CONCLUSION

Upon Board approval, the Executive Officer, is requested to send a letter thanking the Annenberg Foundation for their generous donation. A draft appreciation letter is shown as Enclosure III. Please return one adopted copy of this letter to the Department of Animal Care and Control.

Respectfully submitted,



MARCIA MAYEDA
Director

MM:in
Sec:blAnnenbergDon4BehavPrgm

Enclosures

c: Auditor-Controller
Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office

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BA FORM 03/13

BOARD OF
SUPERVISORS
OFFICIAL COPY

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REQUEST FOR APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT

DEPT'S. NO. 622

DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL

June 21, 2016

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER:

THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATION ADJUSTMENT IS DEEMED NECESSARY BY THIS DEPARTMENT. PLEASE CONFIRM THE ACCOUNTING ENTRIES AND AVAILABLE BALANCES AND FORWARD TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR HIS RECOMMENDATION OR ACTION.

ADJUSTMENT REQUESTED AND REASONS THEREFOR

FY 2016-17

4 - VOTES

SOURCESUSES

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL
A01-AN-94-9686-18950
REV: DONATION
INCREASE REVENUE

\$100,000

ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL
A01-AN-2000-18950
SERVICES AND SUPPLIES
INCREASE APPROPRIATION

\$100,000

SOURCES TOTAL: \$ 100,000

USES TOTAL: \$ 100,000

JUSTIFICATION

The Department is receiving a donation from the Annenberg Foundation to support the animal behavior program. Increase services and supplies appropriation is needed to fund the program expenses.


AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE (Betsey Webster - Chief Deputy Director)

BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S APPROVAL (AS REQUESTED/REVISED)

REFERRED TO THE CHIEF
EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR ---☐ ACTION☒ RECOMMENDATION

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

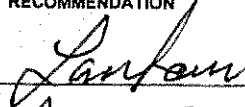
BY


B.A. NO. 004

☒ APPROVED AS REQUESTED☐ APPROVED AS REVISED

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

BY


June 28 20 16


June 28 20 16



Enclosure II

County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care and Control



Animal Behavior Program 2016

Animal behavior is an area of increasing focus for the Department of Animal Care and Control's (DACC) mission of reducing animal euthanasia. Animal behavior is a critical aspect of animal sheltering, as behaviorally challenged animals find difficulty remaining in or finding new homes. As the public realizes the importance of visiting animal shelters to find their newest family members, they should be presented with well-behaved and temperamentally sound animals for selection. Failure to provide such animals for adoption leads to negative perceptions of animal care centers and drives potential adopters to other sources for acquiring a new pet. Effective animal behavior programs are as essential as effective medical programs in saving animal lives.

Impact of Animal Behavior Issues

Animal behavior issues impact DACC operations in many ways:

1. Animals are surrendered or not reclaimed by owners who are either unwilling or unable to manage their animal's behavior. These relinquishments result in more demand on animal care centers with limited resources, restricting the amount of investment that can be provided for each animal.
2. As DACC has become more successful in adopting out the "easy" animals with little to no behavioral challenges, it now must focus with greater sophistication on animals with more complex behavioral issues. This requires more training and investment of time and money for each animal.
3. As the length of animal housing time in the care centers has increased, the need for environmental enrichment has increased so the animals' stress levels are reduced and they may maintain healthy behaviors.
4. The increase in research studies regarding animal sheltering and animal behavior continue to provide new information and recommendations that should be incorporated into animal care center operating protocols.
5. It is important to closely evaluate the placement of dogs with potential safety risks into the community.

Goals of the Animal Behavior Program

DACC's behavior program will be comprehensive and address animal behavior and sheltering from all relevant aspects, with the intent to have a strategy for each key behavioral factor that influences animal adoption and euthanasia. The goals of the behavior program are to:

1. Reduce the numbers of animals surrendered to DACC for behavioral reasons by providing educational and intervention services to pet owners so they may retain their pets.
2. Provide the behavior assessment and modification programs necessary to produce adoptable and appealing animals. This requires a standardized behavioral assessment program based on industry standard protocols, and individualized modification/treatment plans for each animal based on that animal's particular needs.
3. Increase the likelihood that adopted pets will remain with their new families by accurately assessing the behavioral characteristics of each pet and matching them with a home best suited for that pet's needs.
4. Ensure animals that are safety risks are not placed with the general public. The placement of unsafe animals, particularly dogs, creates a negative stereotype of shelter animals and results in driving the public away from animal care centers as a place from which to select a pet.
5. Increase the quality of life of the pets in our care by providing environmental enrichment activities for sheltered pets. Such activities include exercise outside of their primary housing area, scent and audio programs to create relaxing and novel experiences, providing toys for diversion and energy dissipation, and special training and behavior modification modules.
6. Increase the knowledge and competency of staff and volunteers regarding animal behavior. Well trained and educated staff and volunteers are more adept at recognizing behavioral issues, providing the appropriate response and care, and assisting prospective adopters about which pet to select.

Elements of the Animal Behavior Program

A comprehensive animal behavior program has many facets that impact every way in which behavior issues affect an animal's future. DACC's program proposes to include the following categories:

Staff and Volunteer Development

Increasing the animal behavioral knowledge, skills, and abilities of staff and volunteers will provide a more competent and responsive workforce to assist the animals and adopters. This development will include:

1. Employing a full time animal behaviorist to oversee DACC's comprehensive animal behavior program.
2. Structured training provided by professional animal behaviorists using humane and non-aversive training methods. These trainings will be provided at different levels: introductory, intermediate, and advanced.
3. Development of a cadre of subject matter experts (SMEs), consisting of staff and volunteers, who have demonstrated advanced animal handling and behavioral knowledge skills. These SMEs will work at each animal care center and provide daily oversight for animal behavioral programs at these centers.
4. Development of DACC policies and procedures to provide for a structured, humane and progressive animal behavior program.

Education and Intervention

Preventing animals from ever entering an animal care center is the best way to help them remain in their existing homes. In most circumstances, owners surrendering pets for behavioral reasons do so because they feel they have no other choice. The intervention services will consist of:

1. Online resources that provide information on correcting animal behavioral problems.
2. Email and telephone consultation with trained staff and volunteers to provide more detailed or specific assistance for the needs of that pet owner.
3. In person assistance for more significantly challenging situations.
4. As resources permit, community dog behavior and obedience classes.

Animal Care Center Programming

Behavioral programming services at DACC's animal care centers will consist of the following aspects:

1. Behavioral assessment test
2. Behavioral history/relinquishment
3. ACC behavioral guidelines/plan
4. Professional behaviorist on staff
5. Foundation behavior and training program

6. Behavioral problem/modification program
7. Adoption screening
8. Behavioral counselling - pre and post adoption
9. Post adoption follow up
10. Tracking and statistics
11. Train staff and volunteers
12. Medical interactions
13. Identify time, space, technology, and staffing resources
14. Informational resources for staff and public
15. Environmental enrichment

Conclusion

The establishment of a behavioral modification and enrichment program at DACC animal care centers will result in reduced animal surrender, more successful placement of animals into their new homes, reduced animal behavioral problems in the animal care centers, and a reduction in euthanasia for behavioral reasons. Much as the medical program is a key factor in the successful management and placement of animals, the behavioral program will also provide a structured framework in which animals may receive the necessary behavioral modifications and environmental enrichment programs necessary to ensure their successful placement into permanent, loving homes.

MM:in

S:\N:MM:\AnBehaviorPrgm2016

(DATE)

Ms. Wallis Annenberg
Annenberg Foundation
2000 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1000 S
Los Angeles, CA 90067

Dear Ms. Annenberg:

At its meeting of July 12, 2016, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors accepted, with thanks, the generous donation of \$100,000 from the Annenberg Foundation to support the Department of Animal Care and Control's efforts to rehabilitate more animals through animal behavior modification and training.

The Board members requested that I express their appreciation to you for this generous donation.

Very Truly Yours,

LORI GLASGOW
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors